



Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update



Ballast Water Management Convention Progresses at IMO

Ballast water continues to receive more attention, and there has been no exception at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) over the past couple of weeks. Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water were on the agenda for both the 54th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 54) and the Tenth Session of the Subcommittee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG 10). The aim of the discussion of these agenda items is for the MEPC to complete guidelines for the Ballast Water Management Convention of 2004.

At MEPC 54, held from March 20-24, 2006, the Committee made several advances for the Ballast Water Management Convention. In doing so, the Committee adopted guidelines for prototype ballast water treatment technology programs (G10). In addition, the Committee granted basic approval to two ballast water treatment systems: Peraclean® Ocean, submitted by Germany, and Electroclean, submitted by the Republic of Korea. The Committee also reviewed the report of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine En-

vironmental Protection Ballast Water Working Group (GESAMP-BWWG), suggesting that the Committee and observers look into developing a general emission scenario document that will help evaluate the toxicity of discharges from ballast water management systems. These comments will be provided to the



next GESAMP-BWWG meeting.

This month at BLG 10, the Subcommittee also made significant steps in completing guidelines for the Ballast Water Management Convention. Four sets of guidelines were revised and forwarded to MEPC 55 (October 9-13, 2006), including Guidelines for ballast water exchange design and construction

standards (G11), Guidelines on design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships (G12), Guidelines for additional measures including emergency situations (G13), and Guidelines on designation of areas for ballast water exchange (G14). Significant progress was made on the Guidelines for ballast water sampling (G2) and Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 (G7). These reviewed and updated versions will be considered at the next session, BLG 11. Text on Port State Control procedures was forwarded to the 14th Session of the Subcommittee on Flag State Implementation (FSI 14) to be considered as the basis for an additional set of guidelines.

The MEPC and related subcommittees, with significant U.S. participation, have made, and will continue to make, progress toward international ballast water management policy. To find more detailed information on the agenda item of ballast water, MEPC documents can be requested from the website at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/IMOMEPC.htm>.

Ballast Water Management Compliance and Reporting Continues to Improve

The Coast Guard has continued to increase its efforts in compliance and enforcement of our ballast water management regulations since the implementation of the Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program in 2004, and is noting good results. Over 6,300 ballast water management (BWM) exams were conducted in 2005, which was an 82% increase from 2004 and a 145% increase since 2003 (Fig. 1). Of the exams conducted thus far, the rate of compliance remains high.

In 2005, Coast Guard personnel issued 229 deficiencies resulting in 19 cases of enforcement actions for BWM related issues. The most common areas of non-compliance continue to be the lack of required onboard BWM Records and vessel-specific BWM plans.

The Coast Guard is also working with the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) to ensure better quality control for

those submitting ballast water management reports. The NBIC is currently implementing new quality reviews of BWM forms submitted with reply messages notifying the submitter of problems found with forms they submit. The NBIC continues to encourage ships to submit their BWM forms via e-mail or web-based applications. Better data management has also resulted in better correlation of vessel arrivals with the submission of BWM forms, allowing the Coast Guard to generate lists of non-reporting vessels.

The quality and overall number of BWM reports submitted

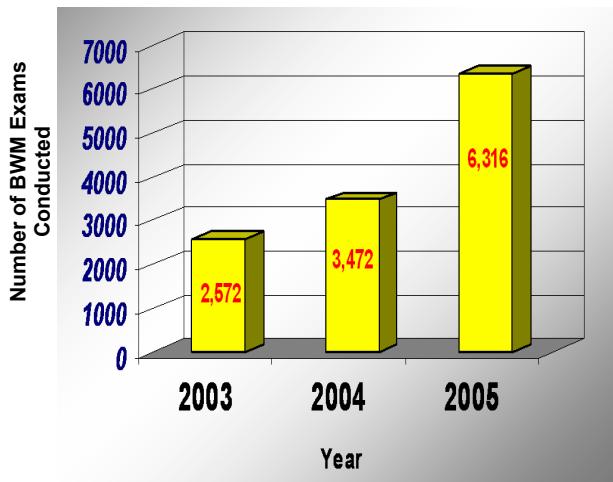


Figure 1. Number of BWM examinations conducted by Coast Guard personnel from 2003-2005.

also continues to improve. Over 110,000 BWM reports were submitted to the NBIC in 2005. Almost 77% of those reports are now being submitted electronically via e-mail or web-based methods (Fig. 2) and 90% are of a quality that they can be directly entered as received into the NBIC database.

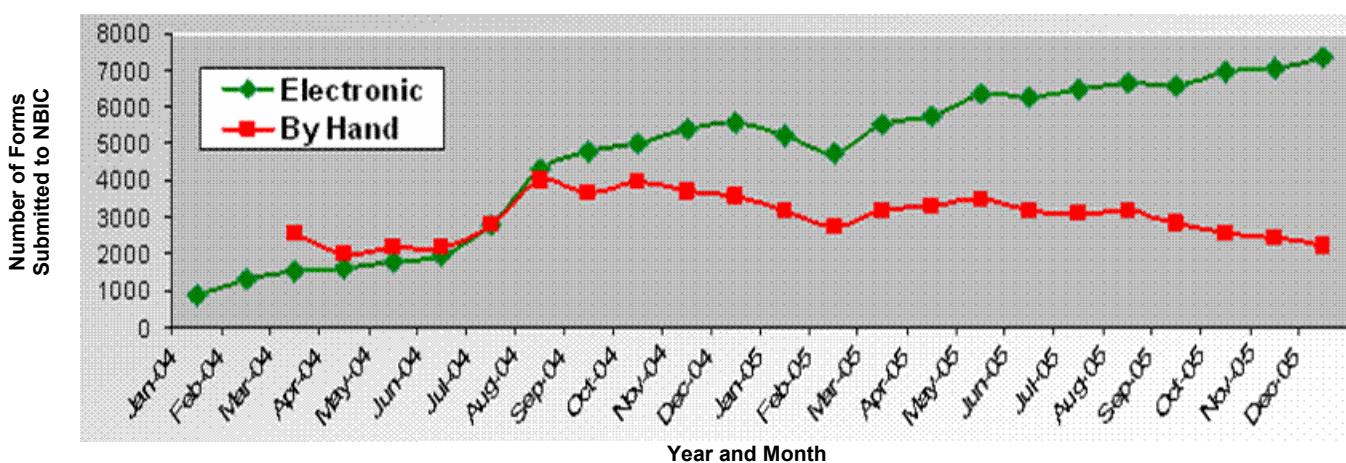


Figure 2. Number of electronic forms and forms entered by hand each month between January 2004 to December 2005.

Upcoming: The Fourteenth International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

During the week of May 14-19, 2006, the 14th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species will take place in Key Biscayne, FL. The introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into marine and freshwater waterways continues to be a global problem. Significant damages to aquatic ecosystems and the economies that depend on them are caused by AIS. The conference provides a comprehensive forum for the exchange, review, and collaboration of information and ideas to address AIS issues. The conference

will hold sessions on ballast water management, hull fouling, risk assessments, invasion biology, outreach/education, and other invasive species issues.

The Coast Guard is a co-sponsor of this conference along with other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and international organizations. For more information on the conference, please visit the ICAIS website at <http://www.icais.org/>.



Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program (STEP) Workshop Held

The Coast Guard held a workshop on March 21, 2006, in Washington DC, to discuss recent changes in the application requirements for the Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program (STEP). This workshop was held to assist technology developers with the new application. 27 participants, including representatives from the ship-

ping industry, technology developers, environmentalists, graduate student researchers, and ANS program personnel were present for the workshop.

Additional information for STEP and the application process can be found on our webpage at <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-ms/g-mso/step.htm>.

Earth Day 2006

Earth Day will be commemorated on Saturday, April 22 this year. The Coast Guard supports this day as part of our environmental protection mission. We invite our readers to join us in activities to preserve and protect our nation's aquatic resources and ecosystems.



Calendar of Events

- April 18-19, 2006
Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
University of North Carolina
Wilmington
601 South College Road
Wilmington , NC 28403
- April 20, 2006
Pacific Ballast Water Group
Hilton Vancouver Washington
301 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
- May 14-19, 2006
International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species
Sonesta Beach Resort and Conference Center
350 Ocean Drive
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
- May 24-26, 2006
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
Cape Codder Resort & Spa
1225 Ivanough Rd.
Route 132 & Bearse's Way
Hyannis, MA 02601

A graphic featuring a stylized white sailboat on a blue wave against a light blue background. Below the graphic, the text reads: "Environmental Standards Division (G-PSO-4)" followed by the address "U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters 2100 Second Street, S.W., Rm 1601 Washington, DC 20593". It also includes the "Information line: 202-267-2716" and the email "EnvironmentalStandards@comdt.uscg.mil".

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www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm